



USDA-NASS

Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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HIGHLIGHTS:

Sheep & Lamb Losses
All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
Honey Production
Chicken Inventory & Annual Egg Production

deaths amounted to 7.5 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born, down 2 percentage points from last year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 13,700 head, down 4,000 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 10,800 head, down 22 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 2,900, down 1,000 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$1.1 million in losses in 2004, down from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.3 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 31 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 67 percent of the predator caused losses and 21 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$0.7 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$2.3 million in 2004, compared with \$2.6 million in 2003. Non-predatory losses accounted for 59 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses were diseases at 9,800 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 8,900 head, 14 percent lower than 2003. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 17,100 head, 5,600 head lower than a year ago.

Producers reported less sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. This resulted in a 41 percent decrease in the number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 3,100 head, compared with 4,500 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 1,200 sheep, 1,600 head less than last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased to \$0.4 million.

2004 Sheep & Lamb Losses

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 44,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2004, representing a total value of \$3.8 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost decreased 14,000 head from last year and the total value of inventory lost was almost 17 percent lower than a year ago. The January 1, 2004 inventory is 3 percent lower than the previous year. Sheep and lamb

SHEEP & LAMBS: Death Losses by Cause, Montana, 2003-2004

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Predators												
Fox	--	--	--	--	1,000	700	61.8	47.0	1,000	700	61.8	47.0
Dog	600	400	70.2	52.0	400	300	24.7	20.2	1,000	700	94.9	72.2
Coyote	2,100	1,500	245.7	195.0	9,700	7,700	599.5	517.4	11,800	9,200	845.2	712.4
Eagle	100	--	11.7	--	1,100	700	68.0	47.0	1,200	700	79.7	47.0
Bobcat	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bear	300	500	35.1	65.0	500	400	30.9	26.9	800	900	66.0	91.9
Mountain Lion	100	--	11.7	--	300	500	18.5	33.6	400	500	30.2	33.6
Wolf	300	300	35.1	39.0	200	200	12.4	13.4	500	500	47.5	52.4
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	100	100	6.2	6.7	100	100	6.2	6.7
Unknown Predators	400	200	46.8	26.0	500	200	30.9	13.4	900	400	77.7	39.4
Total Predators	3,900	2,900	456.3	377.0	13,800	10,800	852.9	725.6	17,700	13,700	1,309.2	1,102.6
Non-Predators												
Digestive	4/	500	4/	65.0	4/	2,400	4/	161.3	4/	2,900	4/	226.3
Respiratory	4/	800	4/	104.0	4/	3,800	4/	255.4	4/	4,600	4/	359.4
Metabolic	4/	300	4/	39.0	4/	600	4/	40.3	4/	900	4/	79.3
Other Diseases	4/	900	4/	117.0	4/	500	4/	33.6	4/	1,400	4/	150.6
Total All Diseases	2,100	2,500	245.7	325.0	6,100	7,300	377.0	490.6	8,200	9,800	622.7	815.6
Weather Conditions	600	500	70.2	65.0	5,700	4,900	352.3	329.3	6,300	5,400	422.5	394.3
Poison	600	500	70.2	65.0	500	400	30.9	26.9	1,100	900	101.1	91.9
Lambing Complications	1,400	1,300	163.8	169.0	7,200	3,500	445.0	235.2	8,600	4,800	608.8	404.2
On Back	800	400	93.6	52.0	100	100	6.2	6.7	900	500	99.8	58.7
Old Age	3,700	3,400	432.9	442.0	--	--	--	--	3,700	3,400	432.9	442.0
Theft	700	--	81.9	--	800	--	49.4	--	1,500	--	131.3	--
Other	400	300	46.8	39.0	2,300	900	142.1	60.5	2,700	1,200	188.9	99.5
Total Non-Predators	10,300	8,900	1,205.1	1,157.0	22,700	17,100	1,402.9	1,149.2	33,000	26,000	2,608.0	2,306.2
Unknown Causes	2,800	1,200	327.6	156.0	4,500	3,100	278.1	208.3	7,300	4,300	605.7	364.3
Total Loss	17,000	13,000	1,989.0	1,690.0	41,000	31,000	2,533.9	2,083.1	58,000	44,000	4,522.9	3,773.1

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 4/ Not available. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

ALL WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production, by Counties and Districts, 2004

COUNTY & DISTRICT	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted Acres 1/	Net Planted Acres 2/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Production		Planted Acres 1/	Harvested Acres	Yield Per Acre Bu.	Pro- duction Bu.
					Bushels	Rank				
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	20,300	20,300	20,100	67.4	1,354,000	25	9,300	9,200	76.4	703,000
Granite	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Lake	11,500	11,500	10,800	66.8	721,000	28	7,400	6,900	79.1	546,000
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,000	2,000	1,800	61.7	111,000	46	--	--	--	--
Powell	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	1,400	1,400	1,100	72.7	80,000	47	800	700	91.4	64,000
Sanders	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,800	1,800	1,700	54.1	92,000	--	1,700	1,600	68.1	109,000
NORTHWEST	37,000	37,000	35,500	66.4	2,358,000	--	19,200	18,400	77.3	1,422,000
Blaine	188,800	181,700	176,600	35.7	6,301,000	10	5,500	5,400	54.6	295,000
Chouteau	537,300	534,300	517,300	45.5	23,560,000	1	1,500	1,500	62.0	93,000
Glacier	140,500	135,300	120,600	27.9	3,368,000	18	3,000	3,000	41.7	125,000
Hill	518,500	454,700	431,400	36.6	15,780,000	2	--	--	--	--
Liberty	255,500	236,500	221,400	29.0	6,422,000	9	1,500	1,500	64.0	96,000
Phillips	122,900	120,800	113,000	35.5	4,010,000	17	4,200	4,000	63.5	254,000
Pondera	173,400	162,600	156,300	36.7	5,739,000	11	8,800	8,800	68.6	604,000
Teton	148,000	138,200	128,900	40.5	5,221,000	13	7,000	6,500	59.5	387,000
Toole	231,000	228,100	220,000	25.6	5,638,000	12	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	56.0	56,000
NORTH CENTRAL	2,315,900	2,192,200	2,085,500	36.5	76,039,000	--	32,500	31,700	60.3	1,910,000
Daniels	266,100	266,100	250,100	30.5	7,623,000	7	--	--	--	--
Dawson	160,900	160,800	140,600	19.7	2,776,000	21	3,000	2,800	54.6	153,000
Garfield	102,000	101,900	94,000	24.5	2,305,000	22	--	--	--	--
McCone	235,000	235,000	227,300	29.5	6,713,000	8	2,200	2,200	67.7	149,000
Richland	162,800	162,800	156,600	29.2	4,568,000	15	12,200	12,100	73.3	887,000
Roosevelt	353,700	353,700	347,200	35.3	12,253,000	3	4,600	4,500	59.1	266,000
Sheridan	342,000	342,000	324,000	33.3	10,793,000	4	--	--	--	--
Valley	306,500	306,500	301,200	35.6	10,721,000	5	6,500	6,100	62.6	382,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,000	1,000	71.0	71,000
NORTHEAST	1,929,000	1,928,800	1,841,000	31.4	57,752,000	--	29,500	28,700	66.5	1,908,000
Broadwater	39,800	39,800	37,800	47.2	1,786,000	24	9,700	9,600	87.2	837,000
Cascade	136,100	134,600	125,300	39.0	4,891,000	14	1,700	1,700	67.1	114,000
Fergus	182,500	182,500	178,500	45.2	8,073,000	6	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	23,700	23,600	19,000	29.2	554,000	32	--	--	--	--
Judith Basin	89,000	89,000	83,600	36.4	3,046,000	20	600	500	74.0	37,000
Lewis & Clark	12,600	12,100	11,700	37.2	435,000	38	1,800	1,800	83.3	150,000
Meagher	11,600	10,700	9,900	34.6	343,000	43	--	--	--	--
Musselshell	32,800	32,800	32,000	22.1	708,000	29	--	--	--	--
Petroleum	27,500	23,900	21,800	23.4	511,000	35	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	50,900	47,500	40,800	16.4	669,000	31	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,400	3,100	72.3	224,000
CENTRAL	606,500	596,500	560,400	37.5	21,016,000	--	17,200	16,700	81.6	1,362,000
Beaverhead	7,400	7,400	7,300	53.0	387,000	40	4,400	4,400	73.2	322,000
Gallatin	53,200	52,500	50,900	64.0	3,259,000	19	19,100	18,800	88.7	1,668,000
Jefferson	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Madison	8,300	8,300	8,200	63.7	522,000	34	5,300	5,300	80.0	424,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	1,100	1,100	1,100	50.9	56,000	--	400	400	77.5	31,000
SOUTHWEST	70,000	69,300	67,500	62.6	4,224,000	--	29,200	28,900	84.6	2,445,000
Big Horn	113,200	110,700	107,200	37.4	4,013,000	16	11,300	11,200	67.5	756,000
Carbon	6,800	6,800	5,100	34.9	178,000	45	--	--	--	--
Park	11,000	9,900	9,200	40.2	370,000	41	2,000	1,800	76.7	138,000
Stillwater	35,000	34,800	31,700	21.1	670,000	30	--	--	--	--
Sweetgrass	1,400	1,400	1,200	26.7	32,000	50	--	--	--	--
Treasure	6,700	6,700	6,600	63.3	418,000	39	3,500	3,500	90.9	318,000
Yellowstone	83,900	83,500	79,000	27.1	2,139,000	23	2,600	2,600	90.0	234,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,300	900	68.9	62,000
SOUTH CENTRAL	258,000	253,800	240,000	32.6	7,820,000	--	20,700	20,000	75.4	1,508,000
Carter	45,700	45,700	29,500	17.3	511,000	35	--	--	--	--
Custer	28,800	28,000	20,000	17.9	357,000	42	--	--	--	--
Fallon	46,200	45,500	35,600	21.6	768,000	27	--	--	--	--
Powder River	20,800	20,800	14,800	18.3	271,000	44	--	--	--	--
Prairie	27,300	26,500	20,200	26.5	536,000	33	2,700	2,700	74.1	200,000
Rosebud	44,000	43,700	41,600	24.3	1,012,000	26	1,000	1,000	86.0	86,000
Wibaux	40,800	40,800	33,400	15.0	501,000	37	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	500	300	80.0	24,000
SOUTHEAST	253,600	251,000	195,100	20.3	3,956,000	--	4,200	4,000	77.5	310,000
MONTANA	5,470,000	5,328,600	5,025,000	34.5	173,165,000	--	152,500	148,400	73.2	10,865,000

1/ Counties with less than 500 acres planted are combined into "other" counties to avoid disclosure of individual information.

2/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat.

January 2005 Ag Prices Received

January 2005 full-month crop prices were mostly lower compared with December 2004. Montana's winter wheat average price was \$3.52 per bushel, down \$0.04 from the previous month; spring wheat dropped \$0.22 to \$3.85 per bushel; and durum wheat prices dropped \$0.12 to \$3.68 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose \$0.06 from the previous month to \$1.67, but malt barley prices decreased \$0.04 to \$3.06 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay dropped \$4.00 to \$74.00 per ton from January and all other hay decreased \$2.00 to \$66.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were mostly lower than the previous month with winter wheat price averaging \$3.35 per bushel, spring wheat was \$3.79 per bushel, durum wheat was \$3.75 per bushel, malt barley was \$2.99 per bushel and feed barley averaged \$1.66 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly higher than the previous month. Beef cattle jumped \$8.40 to 95.90 per cwt. Steer and

heifer prices decreased \$2.00 to \$107.00 per cwt. Cows rose \$2.20 to \$51.50. The average price for calves was unchanged at \$127 per cwt. Sheep prices jumped \$8.40 to a record high \$59.50 per cwt and lamb increased \$9.00 to a record high \$126.00 per cwt. Milk prices rose \$1.00 from last month to \$15.70 per cwt. Steer and heifer prices for mid-February averaged \$104.00 per cwt.; cows averaged \$53.90 per cwt.; calves averaged \$124.00 per cwt.; and milk prices averaged \$16.60 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.66, up \$0.03; spring wheat was \$3.66, down \$0.09; durum wheat was \$3.97, up \$0.01; the all barley price was \$2.71, down \$0.14, and steer and heifer prices were \$85.40, down \$10.30 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was \$3.60 per bushel, spring wheat was \$3.75 per bushel, durum wheat was \$4.03 per bushel, all wheat was \$3.68 per bushel, malt barley was \$2.88 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.13 per bushel, and all barley was \$2.62. Steer and heifer prices were \$81.60 per cwt,

cow prices were \$46.20, calves were \$110 per cwt., all hog prices were \$43.20 per cwt., and market egg prices were \$0.75 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February at 113, based on 1990-92=100, is 2 points (1.8 percent) above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 1 point (0.9 percent) from January while the All Crops Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn, and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers, and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco, and wheat. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points (14 percent) from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from last month to 114, and is 18 points (19 percent) above February 2003.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2004	February 2004	January 2005	February 2005
Prices Received	112	116	111	113
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	130	131	134	134
Ratio 2/	86	89	83	84

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004	Jan. 2005	Jan. 2005	Dec. 2004	Jan. 2004	Feb. 15, 2005	Feb. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.54	3.56	3.52	3.27	-0.04	-0.02	3.35	3.24
Durum Wheat	Bu.	3.98	3.80	3.68	3.62	-0.12	-0.30	3.75	3.59
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.80	3.63	3.85	3.60	+0.22	+0.05	3.79	3.55
All Wheat	Bu.	3.72	3.62	3.69	3.42	+0.07	-0.03	3.59	3.38
Barley, All	Bu.	2.52	2.89	2.77	2.42	-0.12	+0.25	2.71	2.48
Feed Barley	Bu.	2.03	1.61	1.67	1.65	+0.06	-0.36	1.66	1.74
Malt Barley	Bu.	3.40	3.10	3.06	2.75	-0.04	-0.34	2.99	2.77
Oats	Bu.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.64	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.58
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	74.00	78.00	78.00	90.90	N/C	+4.00	74.00	91.90
All Other Hay	Ton	67.00	69.00	68.00	70.60	-1.00	+1.00	66.00	70.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	72.00	76.00	76.00	84.20	N/C	+4.00	72.00	84.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	94.20	109.00	107.00	94.40	-2.00	+12.80	104.00	93.80
Cows	Cwt	45.30	49.30	51.50	50.50	+2.20	+6.20	53.90	52.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	80.00	87.50	95.90	89.40	+8.40	+15.90	92.00	89.60
Calves	Cwt	117.00	127.00	127.00	125.00	N/C	+10.00	124.00	128.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	43.90	51.10	59.50	53.50	+8.40	+15.60	N/A	N/A
Lambs 2/	Cwt	114.00	117.00	126.00	114.00	+9.00	+12.00	N/A	N/A
All Milk	Cwt	14.30	14.70	15.70	15.90	+1.00	+1.40	16.60	15.40

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued. N/A - Not Available.

N/C - No Change.

2004 Honey Production

Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2004 produced 10.8 million pounds of honey, up 13 percent from 2003. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 140,000 colonies producing honey in 2004, compared with 145,000 colonies in 2003. The honey yield per colony was 77 pounds, up 11 pounds from a year ago. Stocks on hand on December 15, 2004 was estimated at 3.8 million pounds, up from 1.9 million pounds in 2003.

Prices for Montana honey dropped 38 cents per pound from last year to \$1.06 per pound in 2004. The value of 2004 honey production was \$11.4 million dollars, down 17 percent from last year.

Honey production in 2004 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million colonies producing honey in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. Yield per colony averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced, therefore yields per colony may be understated. Colonies

were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the all other honey, area specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

2004 Chicken Inventory and Egg Production

There were 480,000 total chickens on **Montana** farms and ranches on December 1, 2004, down 1 percent from a year ago. The December 1, 2004 inventory included 350,000 layers 20 weeks old and older and 129,000 total pullets. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was \$1.6 million, up 5

percent from last year. The average value per bird, at \$3.30, was up \$0.20 per bird from 2003.

Montana chickens produced 107 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2004, unchanged from last year. The state had an average of 355,000 layers in 2004, unchanged from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 302 eggs, up from 301 in 2003.

Layer numbers in the United States during 2004 averaged 342 million, up 1 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2004 was 260 eggs, up slightly from the 2003 average of 259. U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2004 totaled a record high 89.1 billion eggs, up 2 percent from 2003. Table egg production, at 76.2 billion eggs, was up 2 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 12.9 billion eggs, up slightly from 2003.

The U.S. total number of chickens on hand on December 1, 2004 (excluding commercial broilers) was 454 million birds, up 1 percent from last year. U.S. total value of all chickens on December 1, 2004 was \$1.12 billion, up slightly from December 1, 2003. The average value decreased from \$2.48 per bird on December 1, 2003, to \$2.47 per bird on December 1, 2004.

COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Grain Movement	Egg Production
Annual Red Meat Production	Red Meat Production
Potato Stocks	Sweet Cherry Production
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	

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